

REMARKS

The examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12-14, 17, 21, and 22 are amended herein. Claims 15 and 16 are cancelled. Hence, claims 1-14 and 17-27 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art. Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed February 22, 2006 is addressed hereinafter.

I. ISSUES NOT RELATING TO PRIOR ART

A. PRIORITY CLAIM

The Official Filing Receipt includes a benefit claim to a provisional application, but the identified provisional application is unrelated to the present application. The specification does not include a benefit claim or reference to a provisional application. The benefit claim in the Official Filing Receipt apparently arose from a typographical error in the inventors' declaration that identified a provisional application. No benefit claim was intended. To the extent that the application includes a benefit claim, the benefit claim is hereby deleted. An Application Data Sheet containing no benefit claim is submitted herewith. See MPEP 201.11(III)(G).

B. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Office Action did not consider to the Information Disclosure Statement filed in 2001 on the basis that a legible copy of each cited document was not included. By telephone the Examiner clarified that the examiner's file has no copies of the references. Although Applicants have proof of mailing copies of the references in 2001, Applicants recognize that the Examiner cannot consider that which he does not possess, and therefore, a duplicate copy of the same

references is submitted concurrently herewith. Applicants respectfully request an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 indicating consideration of all references.

II. ISSUES RELATING TO PRIOR ART

A. CLAIMS 1-2, 4-5, 7-18, 21-22, AND 27

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-18, 21-22, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly unpatentable over Bright et al. USP 5,729,559 (Bright). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A rejection under §102 is traversed if the claims recite one or more features, elements, steps or limitations that are not found in the cited reference. Stated another way, the cited reference must teach or disclose each and every feature of the claims, arranged as in the claims. *See Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 1548, 220 USPQ 193, 198 (Fed. Cir. 1983). The claims of the present application contain features not found in the reference, and therefore the rejection is overcome.

Regarding claims 1-2 and 17-18, the claims recite “**a second plurality of input queues connected in parallel to the first stage and configured to direct a data block to the first stage alternately from each of a third plurality of data streams.**” The Office Action contends that the quoted feature is found in Bright FIG. 2 and col. 5, lines 1-15 and col. 8, lines 38-44. This is incorrect. In Bright 5:1-15, “DATA IN is a stream of data comprised of the synchronization sequence and cipher text ...” FIG. 2 shows a single DATA IN line. Thus, Bright fails to provide **a plurality of data streams**. Further, the data stream of Bright is not coupled to **a plurality of input queues connected in parallel to the first stage**. The single data stream line of Bright FIG. 2 is coupled to shift register pin 1 and estimator 203, but not to parallel input queues. While shift registers can comprise a plurality of stages, Bright does not show parallel input queues feeding into the shift register stages or estimators.

(To an extent, Applicants have had to engage in guesswork in evaluating the complex structure of Bright FIG. 2. The Office Action does not provide a specific identification of which elements in Bright allegedly correlate to each structural feature of the claims. Clarification is requested.)

For the sole purpose of making explicit what was previously implicit, present claim 1 and claim 17 recite that “each of the input queues has an output coupled to the first stage and each of the input queues has an input coupled to a different data stream among a third plurality of data streams.” The quoted feature is present in claim 2 and claim 18 by dependency. The quoted feature is absent from Bright. Therefore, an anticipation rejection of claims 1-2 and 17-18 is unsupported.

Claims 4, 5, and 7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include the features quoted and emphasized above for claim 1 by dependency. Because Bright does not describe the features quoted and emphasized above for claim 1, Bright necessarily fails to anticipate claims 4, 5, and 7.

Further, claim 5 recites that context information associated with the data stream comprises an encryption key for the data stream. The Office Action contends that Bright shows an encryption key at 5:4-10. This is incorrect. The cited section refers to a “synchronization sequence and ciphertext.” Neither is a key. Bright is concerned with **error correction** for encrypted data, not decryption. Therefore, Bright has no need to disclose the use of an encryption key. Moreover, the rejection of claim 5 is inconsistent with the indication that claim 25 is allowable, because claim 25 recites the use of an encryption key as context information. If claim 25 is allowable, then claim 5 must be allowable.

Bright also fails to anticipate claim 7. Claim 7 recites “a parallel output queue comprising a second plurality of output queues connected in parallel to the last stage, for

directing a block from the last stage alternately to each of a third plurality of output streams, each output stream corresponding to a respective data stream of the third plurality of data streams.” In contrast, Bright shows a single output stream (DATA OUT) in FIG. 2. Bright has no description of a plurality of output streams, or parallel queues that alternately direct successive output blocks from the last stage to the output streams.

Claim 8 is a method claim that is parallel in scope to claim 3. The Office Action indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowability for claim 3 appears inconsistent with the rejection of claim 8, which has the same features. If claim 3 is allowable, then claim 8 must be allowable. Further, present claim 8 includes the same features quoted and emphasized above. Therefore, Bright does not anticipate claim 8 for the same reasons given above for claim 1.

Claims 9-12 depend from claim 8 and include the same features of claim 8 by dependency. Therefore, Bright does not anticipate claims 9-12 for the same reasons given above for claim 8. Further, Bright does not disclose an encryption key as recited in claim 12, for the same reasons given above for claim 5.

Claim 13 is a computer readable medium format claim that is parallel in scope to claim 3. The Office Action indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowability for claim 3 appears inconsistent with the rejection of claim 13, which has the same features. If claim 3 is allowable, then claim 13 must be allowable. Further, present claim 13 includes the same features quoted and emphasized above for claim 1. Therefore, Bright does not anticipate claim 13 for the same reasons given above for claim 1.

Claim 14 is an apparatus format claim that is parallel in scope to claim 1. Present claim 14 includes the same features quoted and emphasized above for claim 1. Therefore, Bright does not anticipate claim 13 for the same reasons given above for claim 1.

Claims 15-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer solely to simplify the issues in the case.

Claim 21 is a computer readable medium format claim that is parallel in scope to claim 1. Present claim 21 includes the same features quoted and emphasized above for claim 1. Therefore, Bright does not anticipate claim 21 for the same reasons given above for claim 1.

The Office Action provides no detailed explanation of the rejection of claim 22. Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and includes all features of claim 21 by dependency. Present claim 21 includes the same features quoted and emphasized above for claim 1. Therefore, Bright does not anticipate claim 22 for the same reasons given above for claim 1.

Claim 27 recites parallel output queues having the same structural arrangement as discussed above for claim 7. Thus, Bright does not anticipate claim 27 for the same reasons as given above for claim 7.

For all the foregoing reasons, Bright does not anticipate claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-18, 21-22, and 27. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

B. CLAIMS 3, 6, 19-20, 23-26

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 3, 6, 19-20, and 23-26 if rewritten. Applicants believe that the present claims are allowable without rewriting the claims, based upon the clarifications provided herein about the claimed subject matter in comparison to Bright. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

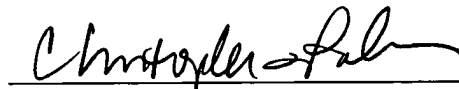
For the reasons set forth above, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone relating to any issue that would advance examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firm check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 19, 2006



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